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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

the application of:

Timothy R. Fitch et al.

Ser. No.: 10/044,119

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Thereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231 of March 76, 2002.

Tammy S. Senecal

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 C.F.R. §1.104(a) and §1.105 concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that these references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or (2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later), and therefore no certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that these references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0289.

Respectfully submitted,

March 26, 2002

Date

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